

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-26. (cancel)

Claim 27. (Original) A method for joining at least two fabric layers, comprising the steps:

providing at least two fabric layers;

saturating at least facing surfaces of the fabric layers with an adhesive;

providing an adhesive film between the fabric layers;

applying heat and pressure to said at least two fabric layers so as to form a joint thereof;

monitoring the quality of said joint for voids in the adhesive; and

adjusting at least one joint formation parameter whereby said voids in the adhesive

between the joined fabric layers are eliminated and avoided, said joint formation parameters

comprising a group including adhesive film thickness, fabric layer weave openness, adhesive

heating temperature, pressure applied to the joint during formation, a time that the adhesive is

maintained near its melting point, and a time that pressure is applied to the fabric layers.

Claim 28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of monitoring the quality of said joint for voids comprises:

obtaining optical images of said joint indicative of opacity and clarity of weave pattern resulting from fiber and adhesive interface within said joint;

comparing said opacity and clarity of weave pattern in said optical images with that of a control image of a joint sample of desired quality, and

calculating the quality of said joint therefrom.

Claim 29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of adjusting at least one joint formation parameter comprises:

applying a pressure of at least about approximately 100 psi to the joint.

Claim 30. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of adjusting at least one joint

formation parameter comprises:

maintaining pressure on the joint for a time greater than 10 seconds.

Claims 31 - 48. (cancel)